

memory. This will serve as a constant reminder of the gratitude we all feel toward these two brave individuals, along with all other law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives serving as guardians of our communities.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "For those to whom much is given, much is required. And when at some future date when history judges us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: First, were we truly men of courage . . . Second, were we truly men of judgment . . . Third, were we truly men of integrity . . . Finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

Deputy Sheriff David Hathcock and Sergeant Edward Lowry would truthfully have been able to answer each of these questions in the affirmative! They were indeed men of courage, judgment, integrity, and dedication. May the memories of these two brave individuals live on in our hearts and may God's strength and peace always be with their families and friends.

WELCOMING EDGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the Edgewood Middle School located in Edgewood, New Mexico. The school is a brand new institution of secondary learning. The need for the school is a testament to the growth and innovation of this area of my state, portions of which I proudly represent.

Edgewood is a lovely community situated amid the East Mountains and arid lands of New Mexico. Edgewood and its nearby neighbors—Moriarty, Sandia Park, Tijeras, Cedar Crest, and Stanley—are committed to the community values that make for a high quality of life. It is not surprising to me the enthusiasm and welcome that the Edgewood Middle School has received.

Someone once said that a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step. I must commend Moriarty school superintendent, Dr. Elna Stowe, for her tireless work and devotion in making this school a reality. Additionally, the first principal of this institution, Sandy Beery, will shepherd the school as it grows and blossoms.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, it takes a team effort to achieve great goals. I fully believe that the educators, administrators, and the surrounding communities will come together to have an exceptional body of learning. Schools are hallowed places, and I am very enthusiastic about the students who will be educated here and then move on to higher learning. A good education is the start of a good future.

I close by taking you back to 1787. It was a time much like today, when this Nation's future was at an exciting crossroads. At the close of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin rose and made an observation about the chair from which General Washington had been presiding. On the chair was

the design of a Sun that was low on the horizon, and many of the delegates had wondered whether it was a rising or a setting Sun. 'We know now,' Franklin said. 'It is a rising Sun and the beginning of a great new day.'

The people of the East Mountains are proud of their strong community spirit and devotion that have helped build the Edgewood Middle School. I commend these community members for their dedication to education and for the enrichment of their students, present and future. Because of all these things, I see a rising Sun and the beginning of a bright future for the East Mountain community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA 25TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a resolution that recognizes and honors the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Congress first authorized IDEA in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142). Since 1975, Congress has refined and improved the law several times. In 1990 the statute was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As most everyone knows, this act assists states and local school districts with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities.

IDEA has ensured greater access to education for all students with disabilities. Not only has access to education improved, so has quality. Students with disabilities are increasingly completing their high school education and embarking on post-secondary education.

I believe strongly in the goal of IDEA—that every child should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. I know that teachers and school administrators also support this goal. However, I understand that schools need additional funds to make this goal a reality. To this end, I have been persistent in fighting for increased funding for IDEA during my years in Congress.

From the time the Republicans took control of Congress in 1995, we have seen the most dramatic increases in the federal funding for IDEA since its creation. Our work has paid off. The federal share of funding for IDEA has risen from roughly seven percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to 13 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. I am proud of our efforts.

Of course, I realize that we still have a long way to go to reach the federal government's promise to provide funding to states and local schools in the amount of 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. While I will not be in Congress next year to push for increased funding, I know there are many members who will continue this fight.

Over three years ago, Congress passed the IDEA Amendments of 1997, which brought many improvements to the education that children with disabilities receive. These amendments focused the law on the education a child is to receive rather than upon process and bureaucracy, gave parents greater input in determining the best education for their child, and gave teachers the tools they need

to teach all children well. For instance, under these amendments the Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed with the general curriculum in mind, and students with disabilities are taking district and state-wide assessments in greater numbers. The 1997 amendments also decreased the amount of paperwork required of teachers so that now they will have more time to spend with students.

I am pleased with the progress that has been made in recent years and it is appropriate that on the 25th anniversary of the passage of P.L. 94-142 we recognize the many accomplishments brought about by IDEA. IDEA has continually been refined to better serve students, parents, teachers, and schools. To continue these successes, we must continue our support for IDEA and the students it serves. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA: FOR WORKING TOGETHER IN A COMMON CAUSE TO SAVE A HOSPITAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to West Virginia's labor and management team who have come together to help save a struggling hospital in Man, West Virginia, forced to close in June 2000 due in large part to Congressional cuts in Medicare reimbursements to hospitals. I salute the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Arch Coal Company for setting an example for labor and management teamwork to save a hospital.

As we all are deeply aware, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997—or BBA97 in its short form—caused draconian cuts in Medicare reimbursements to health care providers across this country—hospitals, home health agencies, skilled nursing homes, and physical therapy programs.

I voted against the BBA97 because I knew first, you cannot cut providers without cutting services to seniors, and secondly, you should never vote for projected cuts of \$115 billion in Medicare, period. That projected cut of \$115 billion has today risen to \$227 billion, with two more years to go of planned cuts under BBA97.

Congress in passing the BBA97 rhetorically assured the American people that they were "only" cutting providers—not services to seniors who rely upon Medicare for all their health care needs. I knew then, and Congress knows now, that services were reduced to seniors, and that access to health care was denied to hundreds of thousands of patients.

In the interim, these past 3 years have seen hospitals, skilled nursing homes and home health agencies closing their doors in record numbers, leaving vulnerable elderly patients without local access to health care of any kind. The safety net that used to be in place is gone. Put bluntly, it is only now that Congress pretends it has just been made aware that 2 years of balancing the budget on the backs of senior citizens has caused hospitals

to bleed nearly to death financially. New estimates this year show that the bleeding has turned into a hemorrhage.

In West Virginia, the Appalachian Regional Hospital at Man, West Virginia in Logan County has been closed since June 30, 2000. Coupled with losses of upwards of \$5 million over the past several years, most of which can be attributed to the loss of Medicare reimbursement to hospitals taken away by the BBA97, the hospital could no longer continue to serve the citizens of Logan County, and citizens from surrounding counties as well.

But also In West Virginia, the Arch Coal Company and the United Mine Workers Union (UMWA) have chipped in with funding to help reopen the Man ARH hospital, lifting the community over its fund-raising goal.

In 1956, the Man Hospital was one in a chain of hospitals built by the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement funds. These hospitals were built in southern West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky where other health care was not available to coal miners. While the Logan County economy has diversified to also include business men, women and their families, it is still an access hospital for coal miners, their surviving wives and children.

Losing the hospital would affect the delivery of health care to thousands of people, and much of that care goes to those without any health insurance, known as uncompensated care, and a majority of the users of the hospital are senior citizens on Medicare. As noted above, it was the loss of the Medicare reimbursements that became the final blow that caused the Man ARH Hospital to close its doors.

Today I commend the United Mine Workers of West Virginia, and the officials of Arch Coal Company, for caring enough about the people served by the Man ARH Hospital to contribute to its reopening and its future service to the people of Logan County and beyond.

But more, Mr. Speaker, in these times of fiscal hemorrhaging by hospitals in the coalfields of West Virginia and the nation, I pay tribute to labor and management coming together to help people help themselves, without a single negotiating session at the bargaining table.

In West Virginia, the United Mine Workers Union and the Arch Coal Company just stepped up to the plate and got the job done.

VERMONT STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I submit these statements for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

MIKE FLOWER AND BRETT MICHAUD

REGARDING STUDENT NIGHTLIFE—MAY 26, 2000

MIKE FLOWER: I am Mike Flower from Youth Build, and it is an organization that we do construction and do school every other week. And basically my subject is how there isn't a lot of things for youth to do at nighttime. And I just think that there should be a club for just youth or something every night that they can do instead of drugs. So that is my thought.

BRETT MICHAUD: I basically have the same idea as him because, I mean, without any clubs what do students resort to? They resort to gangs and drugs, and that is not what people want and that is not what people want to see in the youth of Burlington. They want to see people active in their community, and sometimes the activities are just not there for the students and they just have no other place to resort to.

HILLARY KNAPP, SHAWN KEANE, SUE MARTIN,
LAURA DRUMMOND AND JOEL FELION

REGARDING OTTER TEEN NETWORK—MAY 26, 2000

HILLARY KNAPP: I would first like to thank you for inviting us and giving us the opportunity to tell about some of the things that we have been doing at Otter Valley Union High School through our teen network organization, Otter Teen Network.

The issue that we would like to present to you is continued support, encouragement and funding for organizations such as Otter Teen Network that give teens an opportunity to be leaders, putting continued emphasis on school funding, opportunities for grants that support prevention programs and funding for groups such as Green Mountain Prevention Projects are very important. We feel that we as teens are the best support and the best role models for each other and that we have more of a direct influence on each other, but those of us who want to become leaders need a clean and drug-free school and even the right tools. In addition to supporting prevention, we would also like to encourage research in intervention programs that support teens in our daily lives.

SHAWN KEANE: Otter Teen Network is an idea that came from two students two years ago. Otter Teen Network is student-initiated, student-run and student-organized that promotes teens working together to create a positive school, community and safe school environment while promoting being drug-free. Otter Teen Network is a great example of teens being given the opportunity to express their opinions, share ideas and improving their school environment and being encouraged to make a difference. We have the opportunity to pull together many resources and merge them into the program making it quite a team effort. Safe and Drug-free Schools has funded our advisor's position. It has been the advisor's goal to work within the school soliciting support from administration, faculty and staff. With the creation of OTN, Otter Valley has created an umbrella organization to take advantage of a number of outside resources, such as Green Mountain Prevention Projects, which are stated in there, GMR projects, leadership projects and teen institutes. We are very close to DTLSP. We even have someone on the advisory council. We participate in the Governor's Leadership Conference and also VCAT. Otter Teen Network has also worked with the office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse on presentations. We have also developed them through the goal of working through grant writing and awards to further our projects.

In addition to Safe and Drug-free School mini-grants we have also been given an award. We have also awarded ODAT community grants.

Another area of support that we have tapped into is our outside community organization called Neighborhood Connections. This is a team—it is this teamwork and cooperation that has made us stronger and helped us to such positive influence in such a short time.

LAURA DRUMMOND: Otter Valley Union High School has approximately 770 middle school and high school students. This type of diverse program reaches everyone, Otter Teen Network meetings are held weekly. Once a month we try to have planning sessions where we talk about theme and how to get it across to the school. Often we do informal bulletin boards and school art displays. In many of our topics we focus on prevention in school and community or showing how we are all connected.

JOEL FELION: We have teen leaders which initiate and head a project. There are team members who do network on the project and get it ready, and there are participants who are in school who have not worked on the project but received direct benefit and then there are recipients who are on the outskirts, they are not picking up anything directly but they still benefit from our program and our influence.

HILLARY KNAPP: We would like to present to you this binder showing some of the things that we have done, and we would like to thank you for having us. And the next presentation is about our Power of Choice Day which was held on May 3rd.

Chris Bullard, Becki Kenyon, Jenn Bearor,
Angel Boise and Hillary Knapp

REGARDING POWER OF CHOICE—MAY 26, 2000

CHRIS BULLARD: Hi. My name is Chris Bullard and I am here to go over the concept of the Power of Choice Day. Through attending many conferences with GMPP and GLSP we were always greatly influenced on what we had saw or what we had done, so we decided it would be good for the entire school to have something like that. We began brainstorming ideas last year. As we began brainstorming, the ideas just kept flowing. In February of this year we finally had enough on paper to present it to our administration. It was a go for May 3rd. The Power of Choice was named an all day, schoolwide conference offering teens at Otter Valley Union High School an opportunity to learn, interact and discuss problems and issues that teens face 3 today. And now I am going to turn over to these two.

BECKI KENYON: Hi. I am Becki. Here you have a Power of Choice flyer or pamphlet you can use and it would help. Could you please take it out just to look at it? It should be in one of the pockets.

JENN BEAROR: The meaning of this day was to give awareness to our peers about alcohol and drugs and peer pressure and to let them make their own decisions. We have a group of us called the SOS Players which emphasized on all types of issues that teens face today. We also had the pleasure to have a couple of peers from Mountain View come as well as many celebrities, like the Middlebury Men's and Women's Hockey Team, and all of this was possible by the funding of grants from the Governor's Highway Safety Program, New Direction, OBCC, Refuse to Abuse, and many more.

BECKI KENYON: In the back of the program we had different workshops that our students went to throughout the day, and some of those workshops are Addiction and Intervention, Dealing with Tragedy, Health, Home and Phobia Resolves, Parties, Respecting Yourself, Does Your Body Meet Your Image, Healthy Habits. And the students gave different—well, it had their names on them for drawings throughout the day so we